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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen and School Committee

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

TOWN OF MONTAGUE.

1863-4.

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1863-64

GREENFIELD:
MAN & CO., JOB PRINTERS.

1864.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

C. P. Wright, in cash account with the town of Montague, Dr.

CR.

By Paid State Tax,	1752	00
" County Tax,	732	65
" State Aid debts,	1900	43
" for support of poor of Wendell and Northfield,	12	00
" Expenses of Ferries,	48	00
" Selectmen's orders,	3777	29
" Cash on hand, Feb. 24, 1864,	28	49
		\$8250
		86

C. P. WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Paid town expenses as follows :—

1st. Schooling,	1379 23
2d. Extra highway work,	226 87
3d. Services of town officers,	376 92
4th. Interest on town debts,	663 45
5th. Support of poor,	300 00
6th. Payment of old town debts,	605 92
7th. Miscellaneous expenses,	224 90
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	\$3777 29

1st Schooling,

Center District,	275 00
South "	84 20
West "	115 67
City "	178 37
Falls " (\$9 90 paid to City District,)	29 70
Grout's "	155 27
Lafayette "	30 20
North West "	137 94
Miller's River District,	39 00
Federal Street "	191 62
Chestnut Hill "	69 49
Dry Hill, "	72 77
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	\$1379 23

2d. Extra Highway work :—

Thomas N. Graves, work in 1862,	6 73
Elijah Gunn, " "	4 50
Nathan Bartlett, " "	7 12
Z. Barrows, " "	4 50
George Gilbert, " "	2 00
E. E. Scott, " "	4 92
E. H. Marsh, for plank,	26 35
Isaac Chenery, for timber,	16 00
Joshua Marsh, work,	75
Chauncey Loveland, work on Taft's road,	21 50
A. L. Taft, " " " "	24 50
Silas Burnham, work,	2 87
H. W. Rowe, timber,	5 48
Otis Gunn, work,	10 00
John Howe, plank,	2 30
Eben Ripley, "	1 75
Hiram Stevens, work,	6 00
Richard Clapp, stone and timber,	7 10
R. N. Oakman, work and timber,	58 37
Seymour Rockwell, plank,	75
R. P. Anderson, work,	1 25
Abel Benjamin, "	1 50
Henry Taylor, "	4 50
C. & H. C. Lawrence, plank,	2 43
Omar Taft, " "	1 00
Carlos Burnham, work,	2 70
	\$226 87

3d. Services of Town Officers :—

C. P. Wright, Treasurer,	20 00
" Town Clerk,	22 62
R. N. Oakman, selectman and overseer of poor,	60 00
" Assessor,	30 00
" Superintendent School Committee,	20 00
Richard Clapp, selectman and overseer of poor,	58 20
" Assessor.	13 00
E. F. Gunn, selectman and overseer of poor,	58 00

E. F. Gunn, Assessor,	16 00
Eli Moody, Superintendent School Committee,	20 00
Alpheus Rugg, collecting taxes,	47 50
" constable fees,	6 75
S. W. Bangs, " "	1 25
Amos Adams, Committee on road,	3 50
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	\$376 92

4th. Interest on Town debts :—

J. S. Ward on Town House debt,	55 50
Robert Brown, "	60 00
J. S. Ward, bounty,	54 00
J. H. Root, "	48 00
Thaxter Shaw, "	144 00
" State aid,	18 00
J. S. Ward, "	18 00
Robert Brown, "	61 75
E. S. Delano, "	110 23
" road debt, (Oakman's note,)	43 00
R. Clapp, School Fund note,	6 52
Robert Brown, road debt,	18 00
E. L. Delano and others, temporary interest,	26 45
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	\$663 45

5th. Support of Poor :—

Paid interest on Town Farm notes to Mar. 1, 1864,	
To H. F. Root,	60 50
" E. L. Delano,	98 00
" Elijah Bardwell,	66 00
" Thaxter Shaw,	25 00
" Supervisors of school fund,	24 52
Paid town farm for support of poor, bal. of \$300, appro-	
priated,	25 98
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	\$300 00

6th. Payment of old town debts :—

Note to R. N. Oakman, road debt,	400 00
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Note to R. N. Oakman, finishing lecture room in town house and interest,	97 00
Note to supervisors, school fund, note and interest,	108 92
	<hr/> \$605 92

7th. Miscellaneous expenses :—

John Hurd for sheep killed by dogs,	3 00
Merrill Taft, two sheep " "	6 00
D. W. Alvord, liquor license,	33 33
Wood, lights and care of room for soldiers aid society,	4 17
S. S. Eastman & Co., for printing and advertising,	33 81
Joseph Clapp for tolling bell and drawing hearse and repairs,	27 50
Gen. Schouler for record book for volunteers,	6 67
Expenses to Boston to settle with State Treasurer,	10 00
H. F. Root for surveying,	50
Ben. Tilden's shanty repairing,	10 00
Blank books and blanks,	6 20
Town Clerk's expenses for horse hire,	4 00
Stationary, tolls, postage and other expenses,	20 79
Stamps,	12 30
Patrick Lynds, abatement of tax 1862,	2 00
H. Dunkley, " "	2 70
A. B. Marsh, " "	2 60
Mrs. Olive Ewell, " "	9 90
John Bascom, " "	2 00
Truman Bowman, " "	2 00
E. Payson Gunn, " "	2 00
Otis D. Munsell, " "	2 00
Reuben Stevens, " "	2 00
W. H. Kendrick, " "	2 00
David Rixford, " "	2 00
N. B. Terry, " "	2 00
Lyman White, 2d, " "	2 00
Otis Whitney, " "	44
Ebenezer Whitney, " "	33
George W. Wells, " "	2 00
Sykes, Munsell & Hubbard, abatement of tax, 1862,	3 60

Patrick Howrihan, abatement of tax, 1862,	1 06
James Ross, " "	2 00
Charles Ryther, " "	2 00
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	\$224 90

CURRENT INDEBTEDNESS.

Due Center School District,	16 34
" South " "	12 68
" Lafayette, " "	9 57
" Millers River "	85
" Federal St. "	53 33
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	\$92 77

RESOURCES.

Cash in Treasury,	28 49
Due from interest of school fund for 1862,	51 18
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\$79 67	
Deficiency,	13 10

SCHOOL FUND.

We have no report from the supervisors and instead thereof we will make the following statement :—

We do not know what is the exact amount of this Fund and have never found any one who could tell us.

We have supposed it to amount to between twenty-eight and twenty-nine hundred dollars from the fact that we used ten and fifteen years since to receive from \$170 to \$172 annually as interest to be divided among the schools.

We find on examination there has been paid into the Town Treasury as interest during the past six years precisely \$716 40. At \$170 a year we should have received \$1020, which shows a deficiency of \$302 60. The question is, where is this interest money ? Probably added to the principal. This works a deficiency in the Town Treasury because the superintending school committee are accustomed to devide, and allow the several districts to draw to the full amount that the interest should be. We make these statements to induce the supervisors next year to

bring out a full and complete report of the real condition of the Montague School Fund. There has been collected and paid into the Town Farm debt during the past year \$1092 of this Fund, which we consider a wise exchange, and could the whole Fund be thus invested it would save the supervisors the thankless task of collecting the now numerous small amounts of interest.

R. N. OAKMAN.

LIQUOR AGENCY.

E. W. Hunter in cash account with Montague,	DR.
To cash on hand at previous settlement,	20 29
" Liquor, barrels, &c.,	68 81
" Cash received for liquors sold,	254 31
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	\$343 41
	CR.
By cash paid for liquors and freight,	177 93
" on hand, Feb. 22, 1864,	56 67
" services of agent two years,	40 00
" liquor, barrels, &c., on hand,	52 10
" loss,	16 71
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	\$343 41

E. W. HUNTER, *Agent.*

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN.

To Elijah Bardwell, Town Farm Debt,	1200 00
" H. F. Root, "	574 00
" E. L. Delano, "	1734 00
" Thaxter Shaw, "	400 00
" Montague School Fund "	1092 00
" J. S. Ward, Town House Debt,	925 00
" Robert Brown, "	1000 00
" " road "	300 00
" Thaxter Shaw bounty, "	1800 00
" J. S. Ward, "	400 00
" J. H. Root, "	400 00
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	\$9825 00

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1864.

Schooling,	1200 00
Town debts,	500 00
Interest on town debts,	650 00
Support of poor,	300 00
Contingent expenses,	350 00

	\$3000 00

STATE AID ADVANCED TO THE FAMILIES OF VOLUNTEERS
FROM MARCH 1st 1863, TO MARCH 1st, 1864.

Mrs. Otis E. Caswell,	142 00
“ S. Spencer Shaw,	48 00
“ Levi Brizzee,	96 00
“ Lewis A. Drury,	144 00
“ Christopher Arnold,	90 00
“ James M. Matthews,	144 00
“ Charles P. White,	144 00
“ C. Holden,	48 00
“ Edward L. Goddard,	98 00
“ John P. Mealy,	144 00
“ Guy Bardwell,	144 00
“ Dennis A. Boswell,	124 00
“ James W. Potter,	144 00
“ Albert Smith,	144 00
“ David Burnham,	144 00
“ Alfred M. Pierce,	48 00
“ James W. Horton,	144 00
“ Patrick Britt,	144 00
“ Thomas O. Amsden,	60 00
“ John A. Bascomb,	144 00
“ Charles A. Murdock,	44 00
“ J. Spaulding Pierce,	66 00
“ John P. Sawin,	66 00
“ George Wait,	44 00
“ Charles B. Wait,	66 00
“ George S. Pond,	44 00
“ Parley H. Smith,	66 00
“ A. H. Sawin,	66 00

Mrs. Truman Newton,	14 00
" L. D. Phillips,	120 00
" A. M. Webster,	66 00
" H. W. Payne,	20 00
" George N. Watson,	66 00
" I. P. Gould,	60 00
" J. D. Boutwell,	66 00
" C. W. Peeler,	66 00
" O. D. Munsell,	50 00
" J. Barnes,	57 00
" Polly Waterman,	64 00
Mr. H. E. Dickenson,	24 00
" Albert Newton,	7 00
" Truman Bowman,	22 00
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Paid from Mar. 1, 1863, to Mar. 1, 1864,	3502 00
Due from State Mar. 1, 1863,	2766 43
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Received from State since Mar. 1, 1863,	\$6268 43
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Due from State Mar. 1, 1864,	1900 43
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For this debt to be reimbursed by the State we owe :—	4368 00
To J. S. Ward,	300 00
" J. H. Root,	400 00
" Peter Spaulding,	400 00
" Thaxter Shaw,	250 00
" H. F. Root,	447 00
" Miss S. Moore,	100 00
" Mrs. Benj. S. Waterman,	300 00
" Edward L. Delano,	2171 00
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	\$4368 00

TOWN FARM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ACCOUNT.	DR.
To cash borrowed of H. Sherman,	100 00
" received for hogs and pigs sold at auction,	89 59
" " calves and yearlings "	143 62
" " sheep and lambs "	20 00

To cash received for 4 cows sold at auction,	215 50
" " plows, cheese-presses and churn, sold at auction,	17 75
" " 1 cow to J. L. Carll,	35 00
" " 1 cow to H. C. Lawrence with interest,	71 18
" " tobacco,	1154 40
" " 1 cow and 2 calves,	90 00
" " 1 cow and calf,	85 00
" " for pigs,	85 25
" " drawing wood,	65 44
" " butter worker,	1 50
" " from town bal. of \$300 above int. on Farm debt,	25 98
" " for straw,	28 20
" " cider,	15 68
" " rye, butter and eggs,	11 15
" " keeping and use of cows,	21 03
" " rent of house,	12 50
	\$2288 77
	Cr.
By cash paid for neat stock,	182 50
" " house furniture,	188 89
" " farming tools,	7 98
" " repairs,	30 81
" " fertilizers,	32 42
" " H. Sherman and family for labor,	320 83
" " help on the farm,	282 83
" " Superintendent for services,	50 00
" " help in the house,	25 00
" " taxes,	40 14
" " grass seed,	5 59
" " insurance,	24 37
" " to reduce the farm debt to 5000,	150 00
" " for lumber for tobacco shed,	25 00
" " advertising and expense of auction,	14 15
" " stamps, recording, postage and expenses,	8.13
" " committee for buying farm,	30 00
" " for rent of land,	31 50

By cash paid for clothes for poor,	23 15
" tobacco plants and seed,	7 75
" blacksmithing,	11 72
" medicine and medical attendance,	33 75
" funeral expenses,	9 38
" removing paupers to state alms-house,	10 50
" support of poor in old alms-house from March 1, to April 1,	50 00
" meal,	89 22
" meat,	48 65
" support of poor out of alms-house,	284 05
" grain, groceries and supplies,	195 86
" H. Sherman for rye in field,	65 00
" for poultry,	7 50
Cash on hand,	2 10
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	\$2288 77

AMOS ADAMS, Superintendent.

INVENTORY.

Of the town farm property, Feb. 20, 1864.

Real estate,	4000 00
Live stock,	876 00
Farming Tools,	546 75
House furniture,	164 50
Produce and provisions,	502 75
Cash on hand,	2 10
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Personal estate,	2092 10
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Total valuation,	\$6092 .10
This property has cost us in town farm notes,	5000 00
Cash received from old town farm,	850 00
Temporary note to H. Sherman,	100 00
Claims not paid,	50 00
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Increase of inventory above cost,	92 10

The town has paid for support of poor \$300, from this sum take what the farm has gained by the inventory \$92 10, and we have \$207 90, to which may properly be added the interest on \$850 which was received from the old farm and the use of which money the new farm has had for eleven months, which is \$46 75, would make \$254 65 the cost of supporting the poor. The farm has paid \$284 05 for support of poor out of the alms-house, \$50 for keeping them through last March, \$19 88 for burial and removal, which amounts to \$353 93, which is \$99 28 more than the whole cost. Therefore it has cost nearly one hundred dollars less than nothing to feed, nurse, doctor, clothe and care for the inmates at the alms-house. We have furnished 388 weeks board and it appears at a profit of about twenty-five cents per week. This must be a remarkable case when you can take in boarders for nothing and make a quarter of a dollar each, per week, at that.

The unprecedented amount paid out of the alms-house was principally for Miss S. Prescott, youngest daughter of the late Luther Prescott of Montague. She was sick and died in Belchertown and at no time could be removed to our town. She cost us \$211 67. But for this bill the farm would evidently have money to lend. And it would seem that we must have an excellent farm or it has been exceedingly well managed, or both combined.

We believe the paupers in the alms-house have been well and kindly cared for, and that Mr. Sherman and family, together with the superintendent, are entitled to much credit for the satisfactory exhibit the farm makes this year.

RICHARD N. OAKMAN, } Selectmen and
RICHARD CLAPP, } Overseers of
ERASTUS F. GUNN, } the Poor.

SCHOOL REPORT.

In compliance with the law of the state, the school committee of Montague present the following as their report for the current school year, together with some statements and suggestions which it is hoped may be useful.

Of the schools which have this year been under our care, we are happy to say that we think they have been, generally, well conducted, both in the winter and summer terms. Quite a number of teachers who had before gained a reputation of being good teachers were employed. And that reputation has been well sustained by their services this year. Some who had not before taught were employed and succeeded well, and by their success give promise of making teachers to whom the instruction of youth may be safely entrusted. So far as these facts are concerned, the review of the year is pleasant to us.

But in a few cases we have been disappointed, and a review subjects us to regret. A few teachers who were approbated with an expectation that they would do well, we are sorry to say, have not answered our expectations. The schools committed to their care did not make the proficiency they might have made under different teachers. This we deeply regret. How much (if any) of the want of success in these cases should be set to the account of the parents in these districts for listening too approvingly to the complaints of the children against their teacher, we will not attempt to decide. But if any of it rests with them, we hope the results of this year will convince them that it is not wise to take a like course another year.

That some parents in all our districts have been negligent in their duty to their children, and to our district schools, has to us, appeared evident. All our schools suf-

ferred, more or less, during the year, from irregularity of attendance and tardiness on the part of the pupils. Such irregularity and tardiness not only interferes with the progress, in study, of the scholars themselves, but it works disastrously for the whole school. We believe that a scholar had better attend school three months in a year, and then go regularly and without tardiness, than to pretend to go six months, or even nine months and be absent or tardy half the time. The evil in this case rests more with parents than with the children, and with them, and not with the teacher, rests the power to remedy it. And until they do so, let them not think it strange if they are held responsible for placing obstacles in the way of having a good school.

Most of the parents in our districts have failed, as we think, to manifest the interest they ought to have done in our schools. But very few indeed of them, as appears from the registers, did, during the year, call in to see the schools, in any of our districts. If we employ a person to do a piece of mechanic or farm work for us, we look to him as we have opportunity, to see if the work is done to our mind. But many parents can send their children to school, term after term, without once entering the school-room themselves, to see how their children are cared for while there. Let parents see that their children are every day at school during the term, and always there in season, and then let them call in occasionally, or once if no more, during the term, and they will do much to encourage the teacher and to encourage and stimulate to effort the scholars, and to benefit the school.

Another point, on which your committee would here speak, is the importance of good order, and proper discipline in the school-room. Children who are allowed by their parents to attend school to violate its order, and break down its discipline, are rapidly preparing for anarchy and confusion in the state. We would, therefore, urge the sentiment, that in relation to obedience, stillness and all proper decorum in the school-room, the pupils should be thoroughly disciplined by the teacher, and that the teacher should be encouraged and sustained in this duty by the parents and guardians. If the legitimate authority of the teacher is suffered to be trampled upon with impunity by reckless and disorderly scholars, we may bid farewell to all good results from our common school system. We

would say then, let every child enter the school-room with the indelible impression from his parents, that the authority of the teacher is *necessary*, is *right*, is *legal* and *must* and *will be sustained*. Let the child know that while at school, he must submit to all the regulations of the school, and that no infraction can be countenanced or tolerated at home. We would have the school governed by mild and persuasive measures, if practicable, but we think it should *always be governed*.

Your committee would here suggest that they think we should not be satisfied with furnishing mere book-learning to the scholars in our district schools. Good *morals* and good *manners* lie within the range of a good education. Our primary schools may be termed the nurseries of society. An eminent Prussian writer says, "whatever you would have appear in a nation's life, you must put into its schools." And Plato, wisely and justly, as we think, said, "education makes the man." Education, however, must here be regarded as having a broader meaning than mere book-learning. Dr. Wayland, that distinguished scholar, thus defines education, "by education (he says) we mean that culture of body and mind, which shall enable us the better to discharge the duties of our present probation and prepare for the results which shall emerge from that probation hereafter. It comprehends every interest of humanity. Its influence must be felt throughout the endless ages of eternity." Should we not regard the primary school, then, as a place where children should be taught something more than reading and spelling and arithmetic and other kindred studies? That is by no means the whole of education, according to Dr. Wayland's definition of it. Neither is that all that is necessary to "make the man." Not only the physical and mental man but the *moral* man, or man of the heart and the conscience, needs educating. The law of the state, recognizing this principle requires that a teacher in our public schools should not only be a person of good moral character, but should be able to teach those committed to his care the principles of sound morality. Should he not, then, teach the great principles of public and private virtue and morality, which are common to all religious sects? Some may object to this branch of education and denominate it sectarianism. We are no advocates for the introduction of any sectarianism into the

course of instruction given in our common schools. But is it sectarian to teach children to be good and kind and affectionate, to instruct them in the principles of justice and truth and honesty, to teach them to obey their parents, to obey the laws of the land and the laws of God, to endeavor to impress upon them the importance of reverencing God's name, of loving him with all the heart and their neighbor as themselves? We think not. But if we would have our children become virtuous and useful members of society, we think we should desire to have this kind of instruction given in our common schools.

And as our primary schools are intimately connected with the vital interests of the community, it should be the aim of those who engage teachers for them, to place in these centers of influence, the best talent and the richest experience which their resources can command. In a very important sense it is here true, that as is the teacher, so is the scholar. If a poor teacher is engaged, a poor school must be expected. While on the other hand, a good teacher may raise even a poor school to a respectable standing. Our advice, therefore is, if possible, to obtain first rate teachers. Very much is here depending. For scholars generally will see no regions of thought beyond those which are opened before them by their teachers. They follow as they are led in the first stages of mental culture. And if those to whom they are entrusted have no high inspiring thoughts, if they are incapable of creating enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge and of awakening in the minds of their pupils a desire and determination to be *something*, they may go through the routine of the school-room, but their scholars will be likely to feel that acquiring learning is a drudgery, and if it must be obtained in this uninteresting manner, the less they strive to acquire the better.

We might dwell on other particulars, either cautionary or advisory, connected with this important subject. But we will only add our hope, that all will rally around our common schools and unitedly strive to make them of the greatest possible benefit to the community.

ELI MOODY, } Superintending
R. N. OAKMAN, } School Committee.

